

CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY

COUNTRY USSR/Germany (Soviet Zone)
SUBJECT Airfield Construction and Maintenance

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1. is responsible for ajor construction and/or major maintenance of

is the Separate Engineering Aviation Battalion. This battalion constructs the entire airfield exclusive of buildings which would be built by a construction battalion subordinate to the Military District of Group of Forces. The Separate Engineering Battalion may be subdivided into three companies, each company may be subdivided into three or four platoons, and each platoon may be subdivided into three or four squads. The battalions are administered by an Airfield Construction Section of the Directorate of Capital Construction which is responsible, through the Directorate of Rear Services to the Commander-in-Chief of the VVS. The battalions are assigned from Moscow on temporary duty to the commander of the air army in whose territory construction of airfields is required. They are subordinate primarily to the headquarters in Moscow. When an engineering battalion is attached to an air army its commanding officer is responsible through the Chief of the Rear Services, to the Deputy Air Army Commander for Rear Services. All airfields are constructed according to plans laid out by the headquarters in Moscow.

2.

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[redacted] each company has about 113 individuals and the total for the battalion would be between 450 and 600. In addition, each company has a transportation section equipped with horses, trucks, cars, and tractors. In general [redacted] the units are very well equipped.

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3. [redacted]
The emergency strip would take about a week; the one of concrete would take about a month.

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4. [redacted]
The Airfield Company consists of three platoons. The platoons take turns in the performance of various functions such as guard duty or airfield maintenance. On any given day one of the platoons will be on guard duty, the one will be responsible for airfield maintenance, the third will assist the second platoon in its airfield maintenance but will quit working four hours earlier than the second platoon and then will relieve the guard platoon. The shift normally is eight hours.

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5. [redacted]
Only the very lightest maintenance, such as repairing two or three concrete squares of the taxi strip, replacing burned out light bulbs, clearly indicating the borders of the airfield or the taxi strips, parking areas, etc. The KETCH section (the section responsible for housekeeping functions) of the ATB is responsible for the maintenance of buildings.

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6. [redacted]
The regimental CO sends a requisition up through the division and corps Commanders to the Army Commander. The Army Commander then sends the request back through the technical channels to the ATB with an order that the ATB establish precisely what repairs are necessary and what personnel it will take to perform these repairs. Once this information is established it is sent again through channels to the Army Commander. If he has forces available, he will assign them to repair the airfield. If he feels that he does not have the forces available he may contact the headquarters in Moscow and ask them to send out a construction battalion to perform the repairs or if the construction battalion is already located within the army area he may ask Moscow to extend the duty of the Construction battalion to include the repair of this airfield. Approval by Moscow is in most cases almost automatic. In Germany the Army Commander may in some case hire Germans to perform the airfield maintenance.

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